

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 26, 2009. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 10 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 5 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for her indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 15 and 17. Based on that indication, independent Claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended to incorporate the substance of allowable Claim 17 together with intervening Claim 16, and Claims 14 to 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 1, 3 to 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0145744 (Kumada) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0239744 (Otsuki), and Claims 14 and 16 were further rejected over U.S. Patent 6,301,393 (Spaulding). The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of the rejection, in an effort to obtain an earlier allowance of the subject application and to expedite issuance. Accordingly, this should be viewed as a traversal of the rejections.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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